

Expedited Procedure Under 37 CFR §1.116

Application No. 10/540,364

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In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 27, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 3988-051799

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend page 5, by adding the following after line 7:

--Figure 7 is an isometric view of a segment of one of the partial shells of the ring clamp of the invention showing peg-like projections on the inner surface of the shell.--

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 for the second time as follows:

--In the embodiment shown, the inner profile of partial shells 1a and 1b is provided with concentric ribs 16, which have a rectangular cross-section and thus assure a particularly effective clamping action with the spiral to be inserted. As can be appreciated by those skilled in the art, rather than concentric ridges 16, these projections may also be ridges running in the manner of a thread or may be peg-like or knob-like projections (also identified by the number 20 ~~46~~ in Fig. 74b) distributed evenly over the inner contours of partial shells 1a and 1b. The important point is simply that a reliable positive locking engagement with the spiral to the clamped is assured.--